

TOWN OF HOUNSFIELD TOWN BOARD MEETING
December 12, 2007

The regular monthly meeting of the Town Board, Town of Hounsfield, N.Y. was called to order by Supervisor Jean H. Derouin at 7:00 PM at the Town Hall, Co. Rt. 66, and the Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Members present were: Supervisor Derouin, C'men, Steve Lee, David Cobb, Ken Lawrence Jr., and C'woman Yvonne Podvin.

A motion was made by C'man Lee and 2nd by C'man Lawrence to approve the minutes of 11/7/07. All voted aye and the motion was carried.

C'man Cobb reviewed the bills in abstract # 12, vouchers #660-733.

General Fund A	\$ 27,212.64
General Fund B	218.43
Highway Fund A	21,266.14
Highway Fund B	13,678.00
Water District # 2	34,370.86
Water District # 1	<u>3,223.32</u>
Total	\$ 99,969.39

A motion was made by C'man Cobb and 2nd by C'man Lee to approve the bills in abstract # 12. All voted aye and the motion was carried.

At this time Supervisor Derouin opened the floor to public comment and Sharry Rogers was present to ask the Board to address the added tax of \$.61 for fire protection that was voted on at the last meeting which is in addition to the town tax rate of \$2.56. Supervisor Derouin explained that there are significant increases to various areas of the new budget in addition to funds that were spent from the General Fund for Water Districts 3 & 4 that will not be replaced until those projects are started and it left the budget very tight. Almost every other town has a line item for Fire Protection on the Town and County taxes in January. Supervisor Derouin pointed out to the public that the Fire Protection tax is not caused by the proposed separation of the Fire Department. The question was also asked if there is another way to pay for water district studies without taking it from the general fund and Supervisor Derouin answered that borrowing for that purpose would be more expensive.

C'man Cobb also spoke about the vote to add the Fire Protection rate to the tax bills. He apologized to the tax payers of the Town because he did not fully understand how it would work and he promised to do a better job of that in the future. C'man Cobb requested that the Board members receive the abstracts the day before the meetings so members will have more time for review.

C'man Lee made a motion to authorize the Supervisor to sign the necessary documents to be able to advertise for bids to construct the Storrs Road Water Project (District # 4) and open sealed bids on 1/17/08 at 3:00 PM. and the motion was 2nd by C'man Lawrence. All members voted aye and the motion was carried.

C'man Lee reported that testing of the wells at Red Maples trailer park on Rt. 180 for production and quality has been done in the past week. Jeff Kenney, Water Operator, gave a report on the process and said that the tests results are not in yet.

A motion was made by Supervisor Derouin and 2nd by C'woman Podvin to approve that Jeff Kenney work with Jefferson County as a water operator at the Airport. All members voted aye and the motion was carried.

C'man Lawrence asked Supervisor Derouin if there are more bills outstanding for the Courthouse renovation.

Supervisor Derouin reported that the bill for the heating system is all that is outstanding now and he has the quotes that came in for that. He awarded that bid on authorization of this Board in July. He also gave an update of that building to the Board.

C'woman Podvin also apologized to the tax payers of the Town because the issued of the tax rate for the fire protection was not clear to her either. She had a meeting with the Zoning Officer, C'man Lee a zoning applicant and the Town attorney about a zoning issue. She also met with the new ZBA Chairman to give him some information and training on the position.

The Highway Superintendent's report was given.

A motion was made by Supervisor Derouin and 2nd by C'man Lawrence to authorize the Highway Superintendent to hire a temporary worker for one month. All members voted aye and the motion was carried.

A motion was made by Supervisor Derouin and 2nd by C'woman Podvin to approve a resolution to add 2.80 miles to the Town road inventory. All members voted yes in a roll call vote and the motion was carried.

Year round residents living on Hy Knoll Drive have requested to know what needs to be done to have the Town take over their road. The Highway Superintendent will follow up on this request.

Jeff Kenney of the Water Department gave a work report for November and gave an update on RidgeviewTel.

A Zoning Officer's Report was given by Marlene Lennox.

An Assessor's Report was given by Jean Rogers.

Supervisor's Report was given: Total Receipts \$215,441.72, Total Disbursements \$109,502.19, Bank Balances \$139,542.22, and Total Investments were \$402,398.09. A motion was made by C'man Lawrence and 2nd was made by C'man Lee. All voted aye and the motion was carried.

A date was set for the year end meeting for Town Board as December 27th at 3:00 PM.

The proposed wind farm on Galloo Island was discussed.

Supervisor Derouin reported that our Town is scheduled for revaluation in the year 2008 which will first appear on the taxes in September of 2009.

Attorney Garwood was present representing the Fire. Dept. Co. 2 and requested that the Town Board vote on a resolution to hold a public hearing for a new fire contract.

A motion was made by Supervisor Derouin and 2nd by C'woman Podvin to set a Public Hearing on 12/26/07 at 7:00 PM at the Court Building (Third Alarm) for public comment on a proposed fire contract and a special Town Board meeting immediately following to take action on the proposed contract. In a roll call vote all members voted yes except Supervisor Derouin who voted no. The motion was carried.

A motion was made by Supervisor Derouin and 2nd by C'man Cobb to authorize the Supervisor to hire an attorney to represent the Town at the Fire Dept. public hearing on the 26th and to review the proposed fire contract. All voted aye and the motion was carried.

The Town Clerk will have copies of the proposed Fire Dept. contract available at her office.

The Supervisor announced that an executive session will be held and the Chair of the Planning Board immediately asked the Board to postpone the executive session with regard to the Planning Board until the Planning Board members have a chance to talk to them.

Supervisor announced that an executive session will be held on another personnel issue and the Board left the regular meeting at 8:26 PM.

The regular Board meeting was reconvened at 8:50 PM and immediately adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Diane M. Nier
Town Clerk